IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of generating electric power, comprising:

providing an amount of fuel to start an internal combustion engine as a function of engine temperature, the engine including a number of combustion chambers and corresponding reciprocating pistons;

determining initial operation of the engine as a function of rotational engine speed in response to said providing;

controlling engine acceleration from the initial operation to reach a target engine speed at a target time; and

driving an electric power generator with the engine.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, which includes governing speed of the engine after reaching the target engine speed.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fuel is of a diesel type.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said controlling includes calculating the engine acceleration from engine rotational speed and a time period determined relative to the initial operation of the engine.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said controlling includes regulating fuel supplied to the engine to provide the engine acceleration calculated to provide the target speed at the target time.

6. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said regulating includes reducing the fuel if the amount of fuel provided to start the engine exceeds a desired quantity.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining includes detecting performance of the engine at or above at least one of an engine speed threshold and an engine acceleration threshold.

Claims 8 – 12. (canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A method of generating electric power, comprising:

providing an amount of fuel to an internal combustion engine, the engine including a number of combustion chambers and corresponding reciprocating pistons;

cranking the engine during said providing to start the engine;

determining a start-up operating state of the engine resulting from said cranking;

controlling engine acceleration from the operating state to reach a target rotational engine speed at a target time; and

driving an electric power generator with the engine.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said determining includes sensing rotation of the engine to provide a rotational speed and comparing the rotational speed of the engine to a threshold.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said determining includes sensing rotation of the engine, calculating an acceleration of the engine based on said sensing, and comparing the acceleration of the engine to a threshold.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said controlling includes reducing fuel provided to the engine before the target speed is reached to reduce smoke output by the engine.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said cranking is performed with a starting device in the form of a starting motor.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said providing includes fueling the engine with a number of fuel injectors.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, which includes governing speed of the engine during said driving.

20. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the fuel is of a diesel type.